

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2003

SENATE BILL

No. 118

Introduced by Senator Bowen

February 3, 2003

An act to amend Section 303 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to the Public Utilities Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 118, as amended, Bowen. Public Utilities Commission: conflict of interest.

Under existing law, no person may be appointed to or hold the office of public utilities commissioner who also is employed by, holds any official relation with, owns stocks or bonds of, or is in any manner pecuniarily interested in, any corporation or person that is subject to regulation by the commission. Existing law requires the commission to adopt an updated Conflict of Interest Code and Statement of Incompatible Activities, by February 28, 1998, in a manner consistent with applicable law.

This bill would *provide that the office of any commissioner that voluntarily acquires a financial interest in a corporation or person subject to regulation by the commission will immediately become vacant, and would* require the commission to adopt an updated Conflict of Interest Code and Statement of Incompatible Activities, by February 28, 2004, in a manner consistent with applicable law.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 303 of the Public Utilities Code is
2 amended to read:

3 303. (a) A public utilities commissioner may not hold an
4 official relation to nor have a financial interest in a person or
5 corporation subject to regulation by the commission. *If any*
6 *commissioner voluntarily acquires a financial interest in a*
7 *corporation or person subject to regulation by the commission, his*
8 *or her office shall immediately become vacant.* If any
9 commissioner acquires a financial interest in a corporation or
10 person subject to regulation by the commission other than
11 voluntarily, his or her office shall become vacant unless within a
12 reasonable time he or she divests himself or herself of the interest.
13 (b) The commission shall adopt an updated Conflict of Interest
14 Code and Statement of Incompatible Activities, by February 28,
15 2004, in a manner consistent with applicable law.

